

**CALIFORNIA BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL
Regional Meeting
November 14 & 15, 2001
Modesto, California**

***PRESERVING AGRICULTURAL LAND
IN THE FACE OF ECONOMIC AND GROWTH PRESSURES***

Wednesday November 14, 2001

9:00 am – Local Forum

AN EDUCATIONAL FORUM ON HABITAT CONSERVATION PLANS (HCP) AND NATURAL COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLANS (NCCP)

Several counties in the San Joaquin Valley are considering an HCP or an NCCP. When should an HCP or NCCP be adopted and how is success achieved?

Moderator: John McCaull, California Regional Director, American Farmland Trust

What are Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP) and Natural Community Conservation Plans and how do they work?

Gail Pressley - Statewide Habitat Coordinator, California Department of Fish and Game
Vicki Campbell – Chief, Conservation Planning Division, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Implementing an approved HCP – A Success Story

Andrew Chesley, Deputy Executive Director, San Joaquin Council of Governments
Representative

Challenges of adopting a HCP in Kern County

Mike Chase, Kern County Farm Bureau (tentative)

How to integrate ongoing agricultural operations with HCPs

John McCaull, California Regional Director
American Farmland Trust

LOCAL FIELD TRIP

The local tour on Wednesday afternoon at 1:00 pm will offer a unique chance to see habitat projects that resulted in significant environmental benefits, but were also compatible with adjacent farming activities. The Grayson River Ranch, owned by Paul VanKornynberg; the Mapes Ranch, owned by the Lyons Family; and the Faith Ranch, owned by the Gallo Family, will demonstrate successful “farm-friendly” habitat projects. The last stop on the tour will be the Old Fisherman’s Club for a social hour and dinner.

DINNER

Social Hour 5:30 pm and Dinner 6:30 pm

History of the Old Fisherman's Club

Bill Lyons, Jr., Mapes Ranch and Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture

Ongoing slide show presentation: Wildlife from Mapes Ranch, photographs by Bart Ahyou.

Thursday, November 15, 2001

8:30am

Welcome & Introductions – CBC Co-Chairs

Mike Sweeney, Undersecretary for Resources, California Resources Agency and
Mike Pool, California State Director, Bureau of Land Management

Council Announcements

Executive Committee Report: Chris Nota

CBC Watershed Work Group Presentation: Maria Rea

Local Forum Report – Diana Westmoreland-Pedrozo, American Farmland Trust

10:00 am

PANEL 1: ECONOMIC CHALLENGES FACING AGRICULTURE-Impacts on Agricultural Lands and the Habitat They Sustain

Overview and Introduction – Paul Wenger

Economic Overview of the San Joaquin Valley

Maxwell Norton, Farm Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

Status of agri-business in San Joaquin Valley and multiplier effects to local economy.

Paul Wenger, Walnut rancher, Stanislaus County

The farmer's perspective on economic challenges

Timothy Leach, Senior Vice President

Fresno-Madera Farm Credit

Extending credit to landowners – what banks look for when offering financial credit and hurdles that landowners must overcome.

**David E. Gallo, Professor of Economics
California State University, Chico**

The economics of public land acquisition and habitat restoration activities in Stanislaus County.

Patrick Wright, Executive Director, CALFED

Local Partners: addressing local communities' concerns about habitat restoration

Noon - Lunch

1:30 pm

PANEL 2: AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL - *Incentives and Barriers to Participation*

Moderator: Pam Giacomini, Cattle Rancher (Hat Creek) and Director, Natural Resources and Commodities, Governmental Affairs Division, California Farm Bureau Federation.

Chuck Ahlem, Dairyman and part owner Hilmar Cheese (Merced County)

Dairy Quality Assurance Program – Educating dairy owners about federal, state and local non-point source pollution requirements through a voluntary industry program.

Cliff Ohmart, Research and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Director

Lodi-Woodbridge Wine Grape Commission (San Joaquin County)

Key steps to ensuring maximum landowner participation in programs at the local level.

Tony Van Steyn, Alfalfa grower and rancher (Sacramento County)

One farmer's perspective of farming under a habitat conservation easement.

Tim Byrd, President, Stanislaus Farmland Trust

Successful components to a farmland protection program - how to increase participation and promote the benefits.

3:30 pm

Public Comment

4:00 pm

Adjournment